Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Domestic violence has a devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities in America; and,

Whereas, One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; and,

Whereas, An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year; and,

Whereas, Almost one-third of female homicide victims that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner; and,

Whereas, The estimated cost of domestic violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year nationally with $4.1 billion of which is for medical and mental health services; and,

Whereas, Witnessing domestic violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next; and,

Whereas, Thirty to sixty percent of perpetrators of domestic violence also abuse children in the household; and,

Whereas, In 2007, nonprofit victim service agencies reported 11,016 victims of domestic violence in South Dakota, and it is for all these reasons that we need to honor victims of domestic violence and those who serve them during the month of October and throughout the year:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2008 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of domestic violence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fifth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State